

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned reviewed the pending Action carefully. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Nonetheless, in light of the request for reconsideration and the positions presented herein, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Several claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for enablement. As previously stated, Applicants' use of the term "coupling" is reasonably supported and defined throughout the specification as describing a nitrogenous terminus/moiety between, *i.e.*, coupling, a substrate and a polymeric component. Solely for purpose of clarification, without limitation, claims 1 and 6 are hereby amended to more clearly recite the claimed structural relationship. As such, Applicants' invention is sufficiently enabled, and the subject claims should be allowed to proceed toward issue.

Several claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Billancia. With reference to the preceding, in conjunction with the position previously presented, Billancia does not anticipate Applicants' nitrogenous coupling moiety. The rejection should be withdrawn, with claims 1-5 allowed to proceed toward issue.

With respect to claim 11, Applicants maintain their earlier position: just as Billancia distinguishes bipyridine and terpyridine (in the conclusion on page 509, thereof) a terpyridine ligand is not pyridine. Billancia is not anticipatory. Without limitation, claim 11 is hereby amended only to more clearly distinguish the subject invention. The rejection should be withdrawn, and claims 11-12 should be allowed to proceed toward issue.

Several claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Ekwuribe or Gaw. For the reasons discussed more fully above, neither reference

anticipates Applicants' invention, and the subject claims should be allowed to proceed toward issue.

Finally, Examiner restated several enablement concerns regarding claims 14 and 20. Applicants respectfully disagree. Both claims affirmatively recite the subject coupling moiety and should not be construed in the absence thereof. Accordingly, these rejections should be withdrawn, with the subject claims also allowed to proceed toward issue.

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Consistent therewith, favorable action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone should any issue remain. Thank you for your help and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Rodney D. DeKruif
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 35,853